

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 15, 19, 26 and 28 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 15, 19, 26 and 28.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9 and 12-14 are amended and claims 15 and 16 are added. The amendments are supported throughout the application. In addition, the title is amended and typographical errors in the drawings are corrected. No new matter is added by the above amendments.

I. Information Disclosure Statements

As requested in the Office Action, a copy of the January 14, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement is attached. There was no Information Disclosures Statement filed on September 30, 2002. The Examiner also is requested to consider the information submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement that was filed on January 31, 2006. The Examiner is requested to return initialed PTO-1449s with the next Patent Office communication.

II. All Informalities Have Been Corrected

By this Amendment, typographical informalities in the drawings have been corrected. In particular: (i) the spelling of "deleting" and "protected" in step S521 of Fig. 15 is corrected; (ii) the spelling of "termination" in step S22 of Fig. 19 is corrected; (iii) the spelling of "selection" in step S61 and "search" in step S69 of Fig. 26 is corrected; and (iv) the spelling of "enabling" in step S81, "changed" in step S86, "lapse of time" in step S88 and "change" in step S94 of Fig. 28 is corrected.

Applicants submit that the amendment to the title overcomes the objection to the title.

III. All Pending Claims Are Patentable

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,721,001 to Berstis in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,301,106 to Helot et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action recognizes that Berstis does not disclose or suggest an arrangement in which a universal base can be used with a plurality of different models of digital cameras.

In particular, cradle 106 is used with one type of digital camera 102. Thus, Berstis does not disclose or suggest the combinations of features recited in the independent claims of this application. With respect to independent claim 1, Berstis does not disclose or suggest a universal base and an exchangeable holder removably mounted on the universal base and shaped to fit a specific one of different models of digital cameras. With respect to independent claim 9, Berstis does not disclose or suggest a universal base and first and second exchangeable holders removably mountable on the universal base as claimed. With respect to independent claim 12, Berstis does not disclose or suggest a set including a digital camera and a holder that is couplable with a universal base and that includes a standardized coupler for attachment to the universal base. With respect to independent claim 13, Berstis does not disclose or suggest a holder for a digital camera of a specific shape, the holder being couplable with a universal base, and having an upper portion shaped to fit the lower portion of the digital camera and a standardized coupler for coupling with the universal base. With respect to independent claim 14, Berstis does not disclose or suggest a holder system including first and second holders shaped to fit with a surface of first and second models of digital camera, respectively.

Applicants respectfully submit that Helot et al. does not disclose or suggest modifying the system of Berstis to result in the combinations of features recited in independent claims 1, 9 and 12-14. Helot et al. discloses a system for mounting to different types of portable computers. The system includes a first docking module 22 and a tray-like second module that couples with the first module 22 and to a particular portable computer. As shown in Figs. 5 and 6, different tray-like second modules 38 and 32 are used with different types of portable computers. The tray-like second modules fit to the surface of the portable computer that has the maximum area. Thus, Helot et al. does not disclose or suggest providing the claimed holders (or exchangeable holders) for use with digital cameras, and does not disclose or

suggest the claimed holders (or exchangeable holders) that are shaped to fit a surface that is not a surface with a maximum area of a digital camera, as recited in the independent claims of this application.

None of the applied references discloses or suggests a universal base with one or more exchangeable holders (or a holder for coupling a specific model of digital camera to a universal base) as recited in the independent claims of this application. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Berstis in view of Helot et al, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,947,075 to Niikawa. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 14 is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 9, 12 and 13. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/ccs

Attachments:

Replacement Sheets (4)
January 14, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 31, 2006

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